Sees Need to Fight Inflation

Blough Urges Slowdown In Great Society Programs

Big Steel boss Roger M. Blough called on Congress last night to slow down Great Society and other social programs in order to whip inflation threats and the spectre of wage and price controls.

In a speech prepared for delivery at Washington University in St. Louis, the United States Steel Corp. board chairman said "it is up to all of us to recognize that we cannot have what I have called 'instant affluence.' "

Blough said that a "head of economic steam is building up"—but that the pressures are attributable not to Vietnam, but to "the unusually rapid rate of our economic growth in the non-military areas."

He suggested the Government's efforts to hold down wages and prices by "persuasion" might not be effective much longer.

"It will clearly become increasingly difficult," Blough told a Founders' Day audience at the university "to maintain an acceptable degree of wage and price stability through the publication of guideposts and the powers of Presidential persuasion; and the question arises: 'What next?' "

He cautioned that the country should "stop, look, and listen," before submitting to the kind of formal wage and price controls that were used during the Korean War.

ROGER M. BLOUGH
. . . urges restraint

Reverting to his theme that the major pressures were coming from the civilian side of the economy, Blough suggested that controls could be averted if Congress—as well as business and labor—exercised restraint.

"Today we dream of an America," he said, "where there will be no slums, no pockets of poverty . . . And being Americans, we are impatient to reach those shining goals, which is as it should be. But excessive impatience at a time of great economic pressure can be disastrous, and produce the wage and price explosion which neither guideposts nor controls can permanently prevent."